## STATE OF NEW JERSEY



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SUPERIOR COURT

NEW JERSEY,

) LAW DIVISION

) UNION COUNTY ) DOCKET # L-97231-88

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VS.

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EXCESS INSURANCE COMPANY, HOME INSURANCE COMPANY, ET

SOLVENTS RECOVERY SERVICE NEW ENGLAND, INC., AND

SOLVENTS RECOVERY SERVICE OF

AL,

Defendants.

Plaintiffs,

DEPOSITION OF LOUIS A. FIONDELLA, TAKEN BEFORE LEE ANN BIANCUCCI, R.P.R., A NOTARY PUBLIC IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, PURSUANT TO SUBPOENA, AT THE HOWARD JOHNSON MOTEL, ROUTE I-84 AND CONN. 10, SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT, ON NOVEMBER 12, 1990, AT 10:00 A.M.

> Lee Ann Biancucci, R.P.R. Brandon Reporting Service 450 Main Street Hartford, CT 06103 (203) 549-1850

else that was working there, it was -- you have to realize the town of Southington was no where near the size of what it is now, and most of the time after working with the town so long, people being raised here, you practically knew everybody that came in. If a stranger did come, you would ask where he was coming from because that was the big thing; they didn't want the landfill to fill up quicker by stuff coming from out of town; not what the material was.

- Q Was there any procedure whereby a person or a company would have to sign a book or sign in before dumping their materials?
- 14 A No, never
  - Q Was there ever such a procedure?
- 16 A No. No.
- Q Not even up until the time the landfill closed?
- 18 A No.
  - Q Are you familiar with a company called Solvents

    Recovery on Lazy Lane in Southington, Connecticut?
- 21 A Yes.
  - Q Do you recall at any time when you were working at the landfill from 1962 up until its closing that materials were dumped by Solvents at that landfill?
  - A Materials were dumped. Let me tell you this. I

want to be very, very frank about this. I know why I don't want to put myself into a I am here. position to call anything anything because I am not a chemist. I don't even know what went in there. I, as a person, you could tell me one thing and tell me it was bad, I don't know what was good or what was bad. All I know is whatever came in, we had what they call separating areas for metals, for wood; general-garbage, and we had an area where, if you want to call it Solvents or whatever, came out And what it was, we had a lagoon of the barrels. built to dump in that and several were built for these trucks to come in and dump. Now, at that time, Solvents did not have a truck of their own.

Q When you say "at that time," what year?

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- A When I was there, Solvents did not have a truck of their own. They hired people on and it was trucked in from them, plastic bags or barrels or whatever.

  I don't remember a truck saying "Solvents" on it.
- Q Do you remember the name of the company that solvents used to transport their materials?
- A No. Vaguely in my mind, I remember an older fellow from Cheshire that used to come in and clean up for them, and he had an old truck and it was like a part-time job for him, and he used to be in there

and dump, and I know only through the caretaker 1 that that's where it was coming from. 2 When you say --3 0 There was no writing on the side of the truck saying a name or what. 5 When you say Cheshire, what are you referring to? 6 Q

- That's where he lived, the fellow that had worked for Solvents. - He was a guy from Cheshire, that's all.
- Is that the name of a street or a road?
- The next town, Cheshire, that's where he lived. 11 never knew his name. He was an older guy that did 12 that part time. 13
  - How do you spell that town's name?
- C-h-e-s-h-i-r-e. 15 A

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- Do you remember a company called Mastrianni Q 16 Construction Company? 17
- Mastrianni, right. A 18
- Did you ever see them dump any materials at the 19 landfill? 20
- I am sure they did, but you know why I say that, 21 because they did work there on a part-time basis 22 also, but to say that I definitely remember them 23 coming in with their trucks and their kids ran the 24 operation, not really, because I think he had like 25

a dumping spot of his own that he used to take.

- Q Was there a particular spot at the landfill where material from Solvents Recovery would be placed in the landfill?
- A Yes, along with many other companies, also, and people, too, that had anything like that.
- Q When a company would come into the dump, would they be allowed to bring their trucks all the way up to the cell?
- A Yes, right, it was separate. What it was, it was a lagoon. It was a big, giant hole dug and they kept throwing it in. Some of the stuff was like very liquidy and jelly-like matter. Whatever you would dump, it would slide down and slope to the bottom and build. It wasn't as though a pile would be left here. It would creep right down.
- Q Who would dig those holes? Would it be the landfill people?
- A Yes.

- Q Would you know in advance when a company would be bringing their materials into the landfill?
- This hole was made. This hole I would say at that time was maybe 50 feet wide and maybe 100 feet long and 10, 12 feet deep and that would last for quite a while. I remember two in all the time that we

- Q How far down would you go before you hit water?
- A Depended where you dug. If you dug at the north end, I would say 5 feet maybe, 6 feet, you would be in water. If you dug at the south end, the further point of the south end, you could be as deep as I would say 12, 15 feet and then you would hit water.
- Q Did those water conditions which you have just described ever change during the course of 1962 through 1967?
- A What do you mean now by change? The conditions?
- Q Were there times during that five-year period when the water levels which you have described 5 to 6 feet or 12 to 15 feet would drop?
- A Not -- no. No. Basically it would stay about the same level.
- Q How far in relation to Black Pond was the cell or cells that were used by Solvents Recovery to dispose of their waste?
- A If I could explain to you, the one cell was like -say the Quonset hut was close to the entrance gate,
  the roadway went to the front. The Quonset hut ran
  north and south and when you came into the gate,
  you were heading east, so you could have turned
  either north or south of the landfill and went and

dumped. The south end of the dump was basically, like I say, home garbage and refuse, whatever, from whatever they had at that time. And the north end was primarily brush, trees, home demolition, stuff like that, we would crush that up and cover it.

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Then there was another spot where, like I say, heavy metals was separated, which was above the ground because if you got a pile big enough, you would haul that out of there. The tires were gone through and separated and once the tire guys that did come in there and checked the tires out -- it could have been anybody because they wanted tires out of there; it didn't make any difference who came and took them -- then you would have to bury You make a cell and try to bury them off in one cell because no matter where you put them with the garbage, it would always work its way up to the top. We would try to bury that and work from that point above, in our lower first cell, we would put that at the bottom and work our way up.

- Q The tires always floated to the top?
- A They kept moving. The best thing to do was put the most that you can in a cell and cover it and go over the top of it with garbage because that would hold them down.

- Q The cell that Solvents used, would you say it was at the south part of the landfill?
  - Getting back to that, the cell that Solvents used) was closest to the road and it neared the main gate That was the first cell that they had. entrance. That's the one I say was maybe 50 feet by 150 long. It ran north and south. The narrow part was east and west. It lasted quite a while. Like I say, it was there. It lasted a long time. It was never covered until the end. Why I say that is because the hole was so deep, when they did dump, it wouldn't stay in the pile; it would run out and flow out. A lot of stuff was in plastic bags and barrels at the time or whatever, and whatever was dumped in there would slide and reach its own level all the time so that there was a barrier around it, so as it built up, it would never leak out into the It was an open pit actually all the time. road
- Q Would you be able to see this cell that they disposed of from the road if you passed the landfill?
- A Oh, yes, yes, because the fence was there and we were probably within 20 feet of the fence that we had dug it.
- Q Was there a barrier itself around the hole that was

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dug to accept the Solvents waste?

- A No, not really. It was -- what it was, the excess fill had been dumped around there. It was a little bit higher at different points, and all we did is steal from it to make the road better for them to back up at that point and keep throwing it in the same place.
- When this material came in, did it ever come in in a tank car where they would open up a valve and dispose of it, the material from Solvents?
- A Not that I know of. I don't remember that. It was always open-bed-trucks, lined in plastic bags and barrels. Not a tanker truck, no. Not in them days.
- Q Were these plastic bags tied up?
- 16 A Yes.

- Q Was the material that was in the plastic bags liquid or a combination of liquid and solvent?
- When the truck dumped, you would see some liquid come out but the material that was in the bag was more like a gray clay type matter. I don't know how to explain it. Like a putty, a heavy putty, and it had a very strong, like a lacquer smell to it, that type of odor came out of it.
- Q Like a paint smell or thinner smell?



- A Like a lacquer. I don't know if you are familiar with a lacquer smell but that type.
- Q Would the material be disposed of by placing the plastic bag in the cell or would the bag be opened?
- A Whatever it came in, it came out, it was dumped in there. The cell wasn't like lined or specially made. All it was was a big hole dug and whatever was dumped in there was dumped in there.
- Q Was it dumped from the back end of the truck?
- A Yes, and the people that came in there with barrels, they would have to unseal the top of the barrel, they would open the top and dump the barrels individually. There was smaller factories, they had their own little maintenance truck that came in there, and they would have six or eight barrels, the guy would back up and dump it in.
- Q Were these barrels 55-gallon drums?
- A All sizes. The majority of them were, I would say.

  If a truck brought them in with a couple of guys,
  they would have like 50-gallon drums. Sometimes
  the trucks were small, they would have 30-gallon
  drums. Sometimes the truck would take back barrels
  because everything was in something so they would
  take the same barrels back. They wouldn't throw it

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a continuous odor that it got stronger and heavier, whatever, because it was opened. The vapors went You didn't smell it that strong at no time. off.

as the Solvents material was disposed of?

Odor=wise? I was there, like I say, all them

years, and even the other fellow, and when any

material was dumped in there, believe me, it wasn't

It was only at the time it was disposed of there Q \_would be a strong smell?

Did you ever complain to anyone about the smell

that came from that cell where the materials such

- You know when you got the strong smell? Had you Α covered the cell and then went back to it after, then you would really get a blast of it. What it did is it built up fumes underneath. When they were released, you specifically noticed it. At the time when it was open, you didn't get anything that would be harmful because we had fellows that were pains and if after, if they hadn't done that, they would complain about it.
- Did you ever receive any complaints from any Q neighbors about the landfill operations in general?
- Α In general?
- From 1962 to 1967.

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- Yes, one area which was the metal/wood area which was east of the landfill, people complained because at one time when the Town was looking to expand the landfill, it would be encroaching on their property and that is the only time there was any complaints about the landfill. Other than that, never, there was never any. They thought it was one of the greatest things going, there was no more burning, no more smoke. The people were satisfied. People lived in the back of the dump. When you were done in a day, everything was covered. You would drive by and you would never know it was a landfill.
- Q The cell that accepted wastes such as Solvents waste was open?
- A Yes.
- Q Did that cell ever overflow from rain or anything like that?
  - A Did it overflow from rain? The one -- the first one on top of the hill never did. The one that was dug in back of the Quonset hut, which was the longer and deeper one, which had a water level of 5 feet to begin with, at times it did.
  - Q Where would that overflow go to; in what direction would it go to?
  - A Towards the pond.

A Yes.

Q Was this because of the natural contour of the landfill?

- A Yes, exactly the way the land was.
- Q Was that ever brought to anyone's attention?
- A No, because, like I say, it wasn't a big, heavy matter that come washing off. If you took water and mixed oil with water right now, and you know you would see the difference the way it came out, it didn't grab any big bulk that you have to be driving through any heavy, greasy stuff. It was light matter. After the sun come out and it dried out, it was gone, that was it.
- Q That was a reference to the second cell that was built to accept materials such as Solvents material?
- A Yes.
- 19 Q Did you ever --
  - A When you say Solvents material, it wasn't just Solvents material. I am talking -- let's be realistic. There were many other companies that came in there and dumped.
  - Q I understand. Besides Solvents Recovery using the landfill and using that particular cell or cells,

BRANDON REPORTING SERVICE

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cell is covered now by 6 feet of garbage and

down there, it's down there, like right now it

would be kind of hard to say, but I would say that

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broken.

Yes. They were put in a 55-gallon drum. Some were

Some stayed solid. It wasn't totally

## CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. NOLAN

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Q (By Mr. Nolan) Mr. Fiondella, my name is Jerry Nolan. We represent a Defendant in this matter. I have a couple of questions for you. You said earlier that Pratt & Whitney also dumped or disposed of some waste at the old landfill during the entire time it was open; is that correct?

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A Yes.

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Q Do you remember what years Solvents or between what years Solvents disposed of waste there?

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A Between what years?

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If you could approximate what years Solvents disposed of waste there as well.

- Q Solvents didn't use their own trucks to dump the waste as you already stated; correct?
- A Yes.

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- Q Because of the way in which they used other contractors, you are not exactly sure when they started to bring materials to the landfill; is that correct?
- A Let me put it this way: Except for the two that they did have coming there, there was nobody else coming in there because the other factories that

did come there, you knew them. Like if it was a gas station bringing some stuff that was in a barrel, cleaning solution, or a guy that had a dry cleaners or any of the other places, you knew them. There was a name on the side of the vehicle. You knew who they were and after a while you knew that the trucks that did come in there, whether it be Mastrianni or this fellow from Cheshire, which I don't know his name but I can remember vividly the truck, and they were the only two I can remember that came from Solvents. Solvents didn't come in on a daily basis or as often as we will say like Pratt & Whitney. Pratt & Whitney had a schedule of coming in there.

- Q Pratt & Whitney would come and dispose of their waste more regularly than Solvents?
- A More regularly because they had more to dispose of as far as even skids and other materials. They came in there maybe twice a day, sometimes three times a day.
- Q Would you be able to approximate for me if Pratt & Whitney disposed five times as much material as Solvents disposed of?
- A As far as material overall?
- Q Yes.

A Yes, definitely.

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- Q How about concerning the type of liquid waste that you discussed in your earlier testimony, do you know how much more of that Pratt & Whitney disposed of?
  - It's hard to say because the truck that Pratt & Whitney came in in the beginning, like they used a different truck, it was about the same size, maybe they would come in a couple, three times a week, where the other guy, maybe like from Solvents, if they used we will say Mastrianni one time or the other guy another time, there would be like a long period of time before they would be in. Maybe once a month, once every six weeks. Most of it that did come in would be like from Pratt & Whitney. They had barrels with plastic lined and zipped things on the top and the guy would throw it off. Until they went into the packer truck, they would crush it in there, bring it down and dump it out of the packer, which it was then like they were coming in on a less basis, they wouldn't be there as many days with that stuff. Maybe they would go two weeks and collect it all at one time and bring it and throw Volume-wise, it would be a load. it in.
- Q To the best of your recollection, a contractor on

behalf of Solvents was depositing liquid waste there once every four weeks, once every six weeks?

- A There was no schedule if that's what you mean. Not like Pratt & Whitney. Pratt & Whitney I could almost time and say, "Hey, Pratt & Whitney is coming today with skids. They are coming in this afternoon with this, that," because you get to know the drivers. At the time, they had a schedule that they were on and that's what they did all the time.
- Once the dump became a landfill in 1962, what portion of the landfill did Pratt whitney deposit their liquid waste as you earlier described?
- A In the lagoon. Sometimes they would throw skids in and it would be like a mixed load.
- Q Is it fair to say Pratt & Whitney disposed of their waste material, including the liquid material, in the same cells Solvents used?
- Many times. It would be a mixed load. If it was a mixed load, it went to the back north end corner where the wood and other debris was, like skids they used to get rid of. When I would go to push over the load and it would be like a barrel or something, you would hit it and it would go flying and stuff would be squirting out of it.
- Q Do you remember the names of any of the other

landfill?

A Yes.

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- You testified before that there were two contractors that transported Solvents waste to the landfill, Mastrianni Brothers and this unidentified gentleman from Cheshire?
- A Yes. I don't know who that is. At different times, whoever I imagine at Solvents was able to get ahold of. I think the guy from Cheshire was cheaper. He would be there more often than Mastrianni ever was.
- Q Were those the only two contractors that transported?
- 14 A That I was aware.
- Q Do you know when they began transporting Solvents'
  waste to the landfill?
  - A Only when I was there, like after we started when we got our machine and we were actually working there, I would say after '63 -- '62 and '63 that we were working there on a full-time basis.
  - Q From the time that you were working at the landfill until it closed, did the trips of bringing Solvents' waste to the landfill by either one of the contractors increase or decrease?
  - A It stayed about the same.

## CROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. MARTIN

Q (By Ms. Martin) Just a couple of questions to make some clarifications. My name is Nancy Martin and I represent Solvents.

You have indicated just previously that the cells where waste from Solvents was deposited, Solvents had nothing to do with the digging of those cells?

- A No. It was the Town's idea. It was already a style of creating a landfill and that's the way the systems were. This was taught to you by the State and they had their reasons for doing all these things.
- Q Many other companies or industries from the area deposited their waste in the same cells where Solvents did; is that correct?
- A Right.
- Q Solvents, by depositing their wastes in these cells

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were depositing their waste exactly where they were supposed to be depositing it; correct?

- Correct, because when they came in, they came in with a truck, either loose bags, plastic bags, heavier plastic bags that were put in the truck, the guy usually had a liner against the tailgate of the truck and if he wanted to dump them, he would back up to the hole and dump that in there. times, it was brought in, like in barrels which was hand-dumped out of the barrel and then the barrels were brought back to be refilled.
- Solvents was not the only company or industry in the area that deposited liquid wastes in these two cells?
- Α No.
- In fact, they were not the only company who deposited liquid waste in these cells that had a lacquer or paint type odor; is that correct?
- Right. They had only a portion of it. Α
- That's all the questions I have. Thank you. Q

REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. CALOGERO

some of it towards the pond with an open trench. That's what they have now. Even right now, it doesn't relieve all the way. When it rains, the road floods down in that area. It's all blocked It doesn't leave too quick.

- The person who disposed of the Solvents waste who you said was from the neighboring town of Cheshire, did he dispose of any other company's waste at the
- What the hell was the name of it? Yes. plastics company. It was in Southington, then it moved to Cheshire. He worked for them, too.
- Did that company dispose of their waste in the same cells as Solvents did?
- Theirs were more of plastic, Styrofoam type plastic and other plastic. The only ones that was a plastic related rubbery type substance was the factories.
- When the individual from Cheshire came --
- It was all loose.
- -- with a load that was going into Cells 1 and 2 21 that you have marked on Exhibit 3, that was a load 22 23 that came from Solvents?
- 24 Yes.

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The material that came from Solvents had a lacquer Q